

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 PER-01

SSO-00 CIAE-00 MMO-01 /018 W

-----180739Z 057014 /11

O P 180620Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7273

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3107

FOR D/HA, EA, SCA, VO, PER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, OGEN, APER, MY

SUBJECT: CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE

REF: A. STATE 109186 B. KUALA LUMPUR 3065 C. KUALA LUMPUR 2756

D. KUALA LUMPUR 2803 E. HONG KONG 5142 F. KUALA LUMPUR 2740

G. HONG KONG 3903

1. SUMMARY: ASSIGNMENT OF TDY CONSULAR OFFICER BASED IN BANGKOK, ALTHOUGH WELCOME, WILL BE A PALLIATIVE AND WILL NOT RPT NOT ADDRESS BASIC PROBLEM OF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCED FULL TIME CONSULAR OFFICER TO DIRECT PROGRAM HERE. RE PARA 4, REF A, VOLAG REP CANNOT RPT CANNOT PROVIDE TYPE OF CONSTATN OFFICIAL OVERSIGHT AND LIAISON WITH GOM, UNHCR AND RED CRESENT REQUIRED TO KEEP PROGRAM IN GEAR, ALTHOUGH HE AND STAFF CAN PFOVIDE INVALUABLE SUPPORT ASSISTANCE WITH INTERVIEWS, TYPING, CORRESPONDENCE AND COUMENTATION. POST THEREFORE STRONGLY URGES DEPT RECONSIDER ASSIGNMENT OF CONSULAR OFFICER HERE ON PERMANENT BASIS OR EXTENDED TDY TO MEET BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM NEEDS AND TO PREVENT PROGRAM FROM BOGGING DOWN. END SUMMARY

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2. THE CE BOAT CASE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING PROGRAM REQUIRES INTEGRATED, SYSTEMATIC ORGANIZATIONAL APPROACH. WITHOUT AN AMERICAN OFFICER CONSTANTLY IN TOUCH WITH THE GOM, THE UNHCR AND VARIOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND AVAILABLE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE FOR TROUBLESHOOTING, THE PROGRAM WILL NOT WORK EFFECTIVELY. WE WILL HAVE TO KEEP CONSTANT PRESSURE

ON THE GOM TO FOLLOW ITS MORE HUMANE INSTINCTS. RECENT STATEMENTS BY INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MERZ REST GOM MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF AGAIN OPTING FOR HARD LINE ON REFUGEES AND ABANDONMENT OF "COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM" PRINCIPLE WE AND UNHCR HAVE FOUGHT SO HARD TO ESTABLISH. FROM MALAYSIAN POINT OF VIEW REFUGEE PROBLEM IS APPROACHING CRISIS PROPORTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN STATE OF JOHORE WHERE UP TO 800 REFUGEES ARE LOCATED, MOST OF WHOM HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED.

3. ADVANTAGE OF CE PROGRAM IS THAT IT REPLACES AD HOC MEASURES WITH A REGULARIZED ON-GOING AND OPEN-ENDED PROGRAM. THIS EMBASSY TOO MUST DISPENSE WITH AD HOC APPROACHES IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH BACKLOG AND TO GEAR UP FOR THE LONG HAUL IF IT IS NOT SIMPLY TO FOREGO ALL SUBSTANTIVE WORK. WE ARE NOT A "FAT" EMBASSY AND OUR ALREADY LEAN PERSONNEL RESOURCES WILL BE FURTHER DEPLETED WITH THE ELIMINATION OF A POLITICAL OFFICER THIS SUMMER, FOLLOWING THE PREVIOUS REDUCTION OF ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY SLOT. YOU WILL ALSO SEE IN COMMENTARY WITH OUR RECENTLY SUBMITTED CONSULAR PACKAGE (REF B) THAT BY-PRODUCT OF STREAM OF REFUGEES GOING TO STATES IS GREATLY INCREASED IMMIGRANT VISA ACTIVITY BEYOND OUR PREVIOUS ESTIMATES, AT SAME TIME STUDENT VISA LOAD INCREASING DRAMATICALLY BECAUSE GOM SENDING LARGE NUMBERS OF MALAYS TO U.S. FOR TRAINING AND NON-MALAYS TRY TO GET THERE ON THEIR OWN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF PROGRAM IS AS HIGH PRIORITY AS WE AND OTHERS BELIEVE IT IS, WE MUST HAVE AN ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER BASED IN KUALA LUMPUR, PREFERABLY AS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERMANENT INCREASE IN OUR COMPLEMENT BUT AT THE VERY LEAST ON EXTENDED (I.E. 6MONTH MINIMUM) TDY. THEREFORE STRONGLY URGE DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER ASSIGNMENT OF CONSULAR OFFICER HERE ON PERMANENT OR EXTENDED TDY BASIS.

5. BANGKOK 10#7 INFORMING US OF SIX WEEK TDY OF CONSULAR OFFICER PARADIS RECEIVED AFTER FOREGOING DRAFTED. WE APPRECIATE THIS OFFER OF ASSISTANCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO HIS ARRIVAL. THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT HOWEVER OBVIATE OUR LONGER TERM MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS IN THIS AREA.
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